



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021

No. 21

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

MEETING OUR PARIS AGREEMENT COMMITMENTS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, by rejoining the Paris Agreement, President Biden has promised the world that America will retake its position as a global leader in the fight against climate change and be true to its word to meet our commitments to reduce greenhouse gases. It now falls to us—it falls to Congress—to prove the President right.

Despite all the confused, disingenuous, and flatly false rhetoric around the Paris Agreement, in reality, it is simply a framework for catalyzing, measuring, and improving action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate impacts.

The agreement, signed by 195 countries in Paris and not simply for the benefit of that city, is made up of commitments from each nation, determined by that nation, and which they are each responsible for meeting.

President Biden's commitment, necessary as it was, will not itself reduce

America's emissions enough to meet our 2015 promise to the world or to stem the climate crisis. For that, we must act urgently. We must reject the bad-faith talking points about a false dichotomy between environmental stewardship and economic growth and openly embrace the idea that a sustainable economy is dependent upon a sustainable environment.

Far from climate action costing us jobs, the truth is that our entire economy is at stake if we do act on climate. By contrast, climate action means clean air and better public health. It means more miles between fill-ups and more money in Americans' pockets. It means reliable, robust harvests and innovative and productive ways to make money farming sustainably.

It means passing America's beautiful natural heritage on to future generations and protecting the places and creatures that make our country the envy of the world. It means safe, livable coastlines that don't wash away our roads and our homes. And it means high-paying jobs that can't be outsourced—up to 24 million globally, according to the United Nations.

We have a lot of work to do: building out electric vehicle infrastructure and a modern electric grid; cleaning up our rivers and lakes; deploying clean, renewable power generation; and inventing the next leap in battery storage technology.

No one is better suited than American workers. Low-carbon, long-term, and resilient economic growth and ecological stability are within our grasp, but only if we have the courage to go after them.

This Congress must send legislation to the President's desk meeting this challenge and seizing this opportunity. Executive action cannot do it alone.

I am proud to serve as vice chair of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition. This group has worked for years to advance common-

sense legislation to create green jobs and seize low-carbon opportunities, exactly the type of legislation we will need to meet our Paris Agreement commitments.

Mr. Speaker, preliminary data indicates that 2020 will tie 2016 and go down in history as the hottest year on record. This means that the 7 hottest years have now occurred in the 7 last years.

The call for action from those whose homes have been destroyed by natural disasters and from those suffering through record heat waves and droughts is loud and clear. And we hear that same call from our constituents who see through the pandering misdirection of outdated thinking, understand the imperative to act, and increasingly vote only for those willing to take action.

President Biden corrected an egregious mistake when he moved to reenter the U.S. into the Paris Agreement. We must move with him and usher in the low-carbon economy of the future now.

LOCKDOWNS ARE KILLING US

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, we are now nearly 1 year into the most self-destructive social experiment in the recorded history of human civilization.

On this day 1 year ago, we enjoyed the greatest economic expansion in our lifetimes. The poverty rate was at its lowest in 60 years. The unemployment rate was the lowest in 50 years. Wage growth was the strongest in 40 years. The wage gap was narrowing, with blue-collar wages rising the fastest. Unemployment rates for minority groups and women were at the lowest ever recorded.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H327